

We claim:

1. An ordered biopolymeric material, comprising a rod-shaped polypeptide that comprises a self-fabricating helical sequence and a metal-binding group at the N-terminus or C-terminus or both; and a metal; wherein the metal coordinates to an N-terminal or C-terminal functional group; and wherein the rod-shaped polypeptide is a component of a layer, wherein the axis of the rod-shaped polypeptide is perpendicular to the plane of the layer.
2. The ordered biopolymeric material of claim 1, wherein the self-fabricating helical sequence of said rod-shaped polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of a silk helical sequence, a collagen helical sequence, a keratin helical sequence, an actin helical sequence, and a chorion helical sequence.
3. The ordered biopolymeric material of claim 1, wherein the self-fabricating helical sequence of said rod-shaped polypeptide is a silk helical sequence.
4. The ordered biopolymeric material of claim 1, wherein the self-fabricating helical sequence of said rod-shaped polypeptide comprises alanine, glycine, proline, or serine.
5. The ordered biopolymeric material of claim 1, wherein said metal-binding group at the N-terminus or C-terminus or both is selected from the group consisting of glutamic acid, lysine, histidine, cysteine, and asparagine.
6. The ordered biopolymeric material of claim 1, wherein the metal is a rare-earth metal.
7. The ordered biopolymeric material of claim 1, wherein the metal is Gd, Dy, Pr, Ce, Er, Ho, or a mixture thereof.
8. The ordered biopolymeric material of claim 1, wherein the metal is Gd, Dy, or a mixture thereof.
9. The ordered biopolymeric material of claim 1, further comprising a second metal.
10. The ordered biopolymeric material of claim 9, wherein the second metal is a transition metal selected from the group consisting of Sc, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Y, Zr, Nb, Mo, Ru, Rh, Pd, Ag, Cd, La, Hf, Ta, W, Re, Os, Ir, Pt, Au, and Hg.
11. The ordered biopolymeric material of claim 9, wherein the second metal is a second row transition metal selected from the group consisting of Y, Zr, Nb, Mo, Tc, Ru, Rh, Pd, Ag, and Cd.

12. The ordered biopolymeric material of claim 9, wherein the second metal is a third row transition metal selected from the group consisting of La, Hf, Ta, W, Re, Os, Ir, Pt, Au, and Hg.

13. The ordered biopolymeric material of claim 9, wherein the second metal is selected from the group consisting of Cr, Mo, Co, Ni, Cu, Au, Fe, Hg, Ta, W, Pt, Ag, Pd, and mixtures thereof.

14. The ordered biopolymeric material of claim 1, further comprising a metalloid selected from the group consisting of B, Si, Ge, As, Sb, Te, and Po.

15. The ordered biopolymeric material of claim 14, wherein the metalloid is Si, Ge or a mixture thereof.

16. The ordered biopolymeric material of claim 1, wherein the rod-shaped polypeptide that comprises a self-fabricating helical sequence and a functional group at the N-terminus or C-terminus or both is selected from the group consisting of:

$E_3(GAGAGS)_4E_3$ ,  
 $E_5(GAGAGS)_4E_5$ ,  
 $E_6(GAGAGS)_4E_6$ ,  
 $E_3(GSPGPP)_6E_3$ ,  
 $E_5(GSPGPP)_6E_5$ ,  
 $E_6(GSPGPP)_6E_6$ ,  
 $E_2(GAGAGS)_{(1-6)}E_4$ ,  
 $E_4(GAGAGS)_{(1-6)}E_2$ ,  
 EEEAAAKEEE,  
 EECCAKEECE,  
 EEEGAGAGSEEE,  
 NNECACKCCNE,  
 EAAKEAAAK,  
 CCEAAAKDAAHC,  
 HCAAEEAAKCH,  
 NGCGN(GPAGPP)<sub>2</sub>NGCGN,  
 NGCGN(GAGAGA)NGCGN,  
 $C(N)_3(GGAGVA)_6(N)_3C$ ,  
 $N_2(GAGAGA)(GPCGPP)(GAGAGA)N_2$ ,  
 NGCGN(GSHGGS)(GAGAGA)N<sub>5</sub>,

$N_2 H (GCAGAA)(GAAGAG) N_2$ ,  
 $N_2 GCPGPP (GAAGPGAAG)GPPGPH(N)_3$ ,  
 $N_5 GPCGHP GCPGPH (GPAGPP) (N)_5$ ,  
 $NGCGN(\text{helical sequence})NGCGN$ ,  
 $NGCGN(\text{helical sequence})H(\text{helical sequence}) N_5$ ,  
 $L_4 H GC(\text{helical sequence})L_5$ ,  
 $(GL)_5 GC(\text{helical sequence})H(GL)_5$ , and  
 $(LV)_5 GPCGHP GCPGPH (\text{helical sequence})(LV)_5$ .

17. The ordered biopolymeric material of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the layer is less than or equal to about 10 nm.

18. The ordered biopolymeric material of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the layer is less than or equal to about 5 nm.

19. The ordered biopolymeric material of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the layer is less than or equal to about 1 nm.

20. A method of preparing the ordered biopolymeric material of claim 1, comprising:

- a) preparing an aqueous solution comprising a lyophilized oligopeptide, wherein the oligopeptide comprises a self-fabricating helical sequence and a metal-binding group;
- b) adding a metal to the aqueous solution of step a);
- c) optionally agitating the mixture from step b);
- d) optionally heating the mixture from step b) or c) at elevated temperatures;
- e) allowing the mixture from step b), c) or d) to stand for about 1 hour to about 24 hours;
- f) separating any suspended metal from the mixture of step e); and
- g) allowing the resulting solution from step f) to dry.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the self-fabricating helical sequence is selected from the group consisting of a silk helical sequence, a collagen helical sequence, a keratin helical sequence an actin helical sequence, and a chorion helical sequence.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein the self-fabricating helical sequence is a silk helical sequence.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein the self-fabricating helical sequence comprises alanine, glycine, proline, or serine.

24. The method of claim 20, wherein the self-fabricating helical sequence is selected from the group consisting of:

E<sub>3</sub>(GAGAGS)<sub>4</sub>E<sub>3</sub>,  
 E<sub>5</sub>(GAGAGS)<sub>4</sub>E<sub>5</sub>,  
 E<sub>6</sub>(GAGAGS)<sub>4</sub>E<sub>6</sub>,  
 E<sub>3</sub>(GSPGPP)<sub>6</sub>E<sub>3</sub>,  
 5 E<sub>5</sub>(GSPGPP)<sub>6</sub>E<sub>5</sub>,  
 E<sub>6</sub>(GSPGPP)<sub>6</sub>E<sub>6</sub>,  
 E<sub>2</sub>(GAGAGS)<sub>(1-6)</sub>E<sub>4</sub>,  
 E<sub>4</sub>(GAGAGS)<sub>(1-6)</sub>E<sub>2</sub>,  
 EEEEEAKEEE,  
 10 EECCAKEECE,  
 EEEGAGAGSEEE,  
 NNECACKCCNE,  
 EAAKEAAK,  
 CCEAAAKDAAHC,  
 15 HCAAEEAAKCH,  
 NGCGN(GPAGPP)<sub>2</sub>NGCGN,  
 NGCGN(GAGAGA)NGCGN,  
 C(N)<sub>3</sub>(GGAGVA)<sub>6</sub>(N)<sub>3</sub>C,  
 N<sub>2</sub>(GAGAGA)(GPCGPP)(GAGAGA)N<sub>2</sub>,  
 20 NGCGN(GSHGGS)(GAGAGA)N<sub>5</sub>,  
 N<sub>2</sub>H(GCAGAA)(GAAGAG)N<sub>2</sub>,  
 N<sub>2</sub>GCPGPP(GAAGPGAAG)GPPGPH(N)<sub>3</sub>,  
 N<sub>5</sub>GPCGHPGCPGPH(GPAGPP)(N)<sub>5</sub>,  
 NGCGN(helical sequence)NGCGN,  
 25 NGCGN(helical sequence)H(helical sequence)N<sub>5</sub>,  
 L<sub>4</sub>HGC(helical sequence)L<sub>5</sub>,  
 (GL)<sub>5</sub>GC(helical sequence)H(GL)<sub>5</sub>, and  
 (LV)<sub>5</sub>GPCGHPGCPGPH(helical sequence)(LV)<sub>5</sub>.

25. The method of claim 20, wherein the metal-binding group is selected from the group  
 30 consisting of glutamic acid, lysine, histidine, cysteine, and asparagine.  
 26. The method of claim 20, wherein the metal is a powdered rare-earth metal oxide.  
 27. The method of claim 20, wherein the metal is a rare-earth metal chloride.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the rare-earth metal chloride is dissolved in dilute HCl.
29. The method of claim 20, wherein the metal is Gd, Dy, Pr, Ce, Er, Ho, or a mixture thereof.
- 5 30. The method of claim 20, wherein the metal is Gd, Dy, or a mixture thereof.
31. A method of preparing a structured peptide-metal-complexed material comprising:
- a) combining a peptide that is amphiphilic or rigid or both that contains a metal-binding group with a metal to give a mixture;
  - b) removing a portion of the solvent from the mixture to generate a liquid
  - 10 crystalline material;
  - c) adjusting the temperature of the liquid crystalline material; and
  - d) removing a portion of solvent from the liquid crystalline material.
32. The method of claim 31, wherein peptide comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of :
- 15  $E_3(GAGAGS)_4E_3$ ,
  - $E_5(GAGAGS)_4E_5$ ,
  - $E_6(GAGAGS)_4E_6$ ,
  - $E_3(GSPGPP)_6E_3$ ,
  - $E_5(GSPGPP)_6E_5$ ,
  - 20  $E_6(GSPGPP)_6E_6$ ,
  - $E_2(GAGAGS)_{(1-6)}E_4$ ,
  - $E_4(GAGAGS)_{(1-6)}E_2$ ,
  - EEEEAAKEEEE,
  - EECCAKEECE,
  - 25 EEEGAGAGSEEE,
  - NNECACKCCNE,
  - EAAKEAAAK,
  - CCEAAAKDAAHC,
  - HCAAEAAAKCH,
  - 30 NGCGN(GPAGPP)<sub>2</sub>NGCGN,
  - NGCGN(GAGAGA)NGCGN,
  - $C(N)_3(GGAGVA)_6(N)_3C$ ,
  - $N_2(GAGAGA)(GPCGPP)(GAGAGA)N_2$ ,

NGCGN(GSHGGS)(GAGAGA) N<sub>5</sub>,  
 N<sub>2</sub> H (GCAGAA)(GAAGAG) N<sub>2</sub>,  
 N<sub>2</sub> GCPGPP (GAAGPGAAG)GPPGPH(N)<sub>3</sub>,  
 N<sub>5</sub> GPCGHP GCPGPH (GPAGPP) (N)<sub>5</sub>,  
 5 NGCGN(helical sequence)NGCGN,  
 NGCGN(helical sequence)H(helical sequence) N<sub>5</sub>,  
 L<sub>4</sub> H GC(helical sequence)L<sub>5</sub>,  
 (GL)<sub>5</sub> GC(helical sequence)H(GL)<sub>5</sub>, and  
 (LV)<sub>5</sub> GPCGHP GCPGPH (helical sequence)(LV)<sub>5</sub>.

- 10 33. The method of claim 31, wherein the metal is a rare-earth metal.
34. The method of claim 31, wherein the metal is Gd, Dy, Pr, Cs, Er, Ho, or a mixture thereof.
35. The method of claim 31, wherein the metal is Gd, Dy, or a mixture thereof.
36. The method of claim 31, wherein the metal is a transition metal selected from the  
 15 group consisting of Sc, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Y, Zr, Nb, Mo, Tc, Ru, Rh, Pd, Ag, Cd, La, Hf, Ta, W, Re, Os, Ir, Pt, Au, and Hg.
37. The method of claim 31, wherein the metal is a first row transition metal selected from the group consisting of Sc, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, and Zn.
38. The method of claim 31, wherein the metal is a second row transition metal selected  
 20 from the group consisting of Y, Zr, Nb, Mo, Tc, Ru, Rh, Pd, Ag, and Cd.
39. The method of claim 31, wherein the metal is a third row transition metal selected from the group consisting of La, Hf, Ta, W, Re, Os, Ir, Pt, Au, and Hg.
40. The method of claim 31, wherein the metal is a transition metal selected from the group consisting of Cr, Mo, Co, Ni, Cu, Au, Fe, Hg, Ta, W, Pt, Ag, Pd, and mixtures  
 25 thereof.
41. The method of claim 31, wherein the metal is a transition metal in the form of a complex selected from the group consisting of: anionic polyoxometallates, polynuclear cationic species, and chiral complexes.
42. The method of claim 41, wherein the anionic polyoxometallates are selected from  
 30 the group consisting of: isopolymolybdates, heteropolymolybdates, isopolytungstates, and heteropolytungstates; the polynuclear cationic species are selected from the group consisting of Ta<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>12</sub><sup>2+</sup>, Ta<sub>6</sub>Br<sub>12</sub><sup>2+</sup>, W<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>8</sub><sup>4+</sup>, and W<sub>6</sub>Br<sub>8</sub><sup>4+</sup>; and the chiral complexes are

selected from the group consisting of tris-bipyridylruthenium(II) and tris(tetramminedi-hydroxocobalt(III))cobalt(III) cation.

43. An ordered biopolymeric material, comprising a rod-shaped polypeptide that comprises a self-fabricating helical sequence, wherein the self-fabricating helical sequence  
5 is selected from the group consisting of:

EEEA-AAKEEE,  
EECC-AKEECE,  
EEEGAGAGSEEE,  
NNEC-ACKCCNE,  
10 EAAKEAAAK,  
CCEAAAKDAAHC, and  
HCAA-EAAAKCH;

and wherein the rod-shaped polypeptide is a component of a layer, wherein the axis of the rod-shaped polypeptide is perpendicular to the plane of the layer.

44. A peptide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

EEEA-AAKEEE,  
EECC-AKEECE,  
EEEGAGAGSEEE,  
NNEC-ACKCCNE,  
20 EAAKEAAAK,  
CCEAAAKDAAHC, and  
HCAA-EAAAKCH.

45. A polymer comprising the peptide sequence of claim 44.

46. A rod-shaped polypeptide that comprises a self-fabricating helical sequence and a  
25 metal-binding group at the N-terminus or C-terminus or both, wherein the self-fabricating helical sequence is selected from the group consisting of:

$E_3(GAGAGS)_4E_3$ ,  
 $E_5(GAGAGS)_4E_5$ ,  
 $E_6(GAGAGS)_4E_6$ ,  
30  $E_3(GSPGPP)_6E_3$ ,  
 $E_5(GSPGPP)_6E_5$ ,  
 $E_6(GSPGPP)_6E_6$ ,  
 $E_2(GAGAGS)_{(1-6)}E_4$ ,

E<sub>4</sub>(GAGAGS)<sub>(1-6)</sub>E<sub>2</sub>,  
 EEEAAAKEEE,  
 EECCAKEECE,  
 EEEGAGAGSEEE,  
 5 NNECACKCCNE,  
 EAAKEAAAK,  
 CCEAAAKDAAHC,  
 HCAAEEAAAKCH,  
 NGCGN(GPAGPP)<sub>2</sub>NGCGN,  
 10 NGCGN(GAGAGA)NGCGN,  
 C(N)<sub>3</sub>(GGAGVA)<sub>6</sub>(N)<sub>3</sub>C,  
 N<sub>2</sub>(GAGAGA)(GPCGPP)(GAGAGA)N<sub>2</sub>,  
 NGCGN(GSHGGS)(GAGAGA)N<sub>5</sub>,  
 N<sub>2</sub>H(GCAGAA)(GAAGAG)N<sub>2</sub>,  
 15 N<sub>2</sub>GCPGPP(GAAGPGAAG)GPPGPH(N)<sub>3</sub>,  
 N<sub>5</sub>GPCGHPGCPGPH(GPAGPP)(N)<sub>5</sub>,  
 NGCGN(helical sequence)NGCGN,  
 NGCGN(helical sequence)H(helical sequence)N<sub>5</sub>,  
 L<sub>4</sub>HGC(helical sequence)L<sub>5</sub>,  
 20 (GL)<sub>5</sub>GC(helical sequence)H(GL)<sub>5</sub>, and  
 (LV)<sub>5</sub>GPCGHPGCPGPH(helical sequence)(LV)<sub>5</sub>.

47. A film comprising the ordered biopolymeric material of claim 1 or 43.

48. A magnet, comprising the ordered biopolymeric material of claim 1 or 43, wherein  
 the magnet is paramagnetic, aniferromagnetic, spinglass, superparamagnetic, ferromagnetic,  
 25 ferrimagnetic, or antiferrimagnetic.

49. A magnet comprising an ordered biopolymeric material of claim 1 or 43, wherein  
 the magnet is pressure sensitive, and wherein the magnet is paramagnetic, aniferromagnetic,  
 spinglass, superparamagnetic, ferromagnetic, ferrimagnetic, or antiferrimagnetic.